

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 120698 TOSEC 010264

14-11  
ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 120698 TOSEC 010264

FOL REPEAT VIENTIANE 3627 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK  
CANBERRA CINCPAC MAY 23, 1975

QUOTE

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 3627

DEPT PASS SECRETARY KISSINGER  
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, LA, US  
SUBJECT: AID AND USAID IN LAOS

REF: STATE 119972

1. CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS AT 10:00 A.M. MAY 23 BY  
CALL ON PRIME MINISTER. HAVE ALSO REQUESTED APPOINTMENT  
WITH MINFONAFF PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, WHO IS AT PRESENT  
ADDRESSING RALLY AT STADIUM. I TOLD SOUVANNA THAT IN  
LINE WITH THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WE HAD HAD WITH THE PGNU  
OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, WASHINGTON HAD DECIDED TO CLOSE  
DOWN THE USAID MISSION AND TO WITHDRAW USAID PERSONNEL.  
HOWEVER, AS HE COULD APPRECIATE, THERE WOULD BE A GREAT  
SECRET

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MANY ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS IN ORDER TO AFFECT AN  
ORDERLY TRANSFER OF FACILITIES TO THE PGNU. FOR  
INSTANCE, TODAY IS PAYDAY FOR USAID EMPLOYEES AND WE  
HAD RECEIVED THREATENING NOTE THAT UNLESS WE EFFECTED

PAYMENTS THE SIGNATORIES ("REPRESENTATIVE OF USAID EMPLOYEES; DEMOCRATIC CENTER FOR JUSTICE, AND PRESIDENT OF STUDENT FEDERATION KHANSAI) WOULD NOT GUARANTEE SECURITY OF PROPERTY AND LIVES OF USAID PERSONNEL. IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL THAT WE HAVE FREE ACCESS TO THE COMPOUND IN ORDER THAT WE BE ABLE TO PAY THE EMPLOYEES, CLOSE DOWN THE OPERATION, AND EFFECT THE TRANSFER. SOUVANNA LOOKED SURPRISED THAT DEMONSTRATORS STILL HELD THE COMPOUND AS HE HAD GIVEN "ORDERS" YESTERDAY TO EVACUATE THE AREA.

2. I ALSO TOOK UP THE PROBLEM OF THE HOUSING COMPLEX AT DM 6 WHERE POLICE AND STUDENTS HAD PREVENTED ANYONE FROM ENTERING OR LEAVING SINCE 6:00 P.M. LAST NIGHT. I SAID THAT WE HAD A CONVOY OF UPWARDS OF 100 PERSONS PREPARED TO GO AT 11:00 THIS MORNING BUT THAT IF THEY WERE STOPPED, THEY WERE ORDERED TO RETURN TO THE COMPOUND. THEY WOULD, IN EFFECT, BE PRISONERS OF THE PGNU. I SAID THAT THIS WAS THE SITUATION DESPITE ASSURANCES AT 11:30 LAST NIGHT FROM MINFONAFF PHOUMI THAT HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL TO GIVE APPROPRIATE ORDERS TO PEOPLE GUARDING KM 6. SOUVANNA UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORT OF ALL THIS QUITE CLEARLY AND CUT THE INTERVIEW SHORT SAYING THAT HE WOULD TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH SOMEBODY ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT SINCE EVERYONE WAS AT THE STADIUM. HE CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, IN TYPICAL FASHION THAT WE WERE PASSING THROUGH MOMENT OF CRISIS AFTER WHICH EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALL RIGHT.

3. I DID NOT RPT NOT INDICATE THAT WE WERE SUSPENDING AID PROGRAMS. COUNTRY TEAM IS UNANIMOUS THAT HOWEVER WORDED SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE VIEWED BY PGNU AS THREAT AND WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL AT THIS TRICKY TIME. WE ARE ADMINISTRATIVELY STOPPING ECONOMIC AID IN PIPELINE. MILITARY AID, CONSISTING OF RICE, SOME FUEL AND MEDICINE, ARE CONTINUING TO BE PROVIDED. CHAPMAN  
SECRET

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UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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